



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Administrative Policies and Procedures: 27.29

Subject: Use of Tracking Dogs

Supersedes: DCS 27.29, 07/01/98

Local Policy: No

Local Procedures: Yes

Training Required: Yes

Applicable Practice Model Standard(s): No

Approved by:

Effective date: 07/01/98

Revision date: 04/01/05

Application

To All Department of Children's Services Youth Development Centers Superintendents and Employees

Authority: TCA 37-5-106

Policy

Superintendents shall have the discretion whether to use and house tracking dogs at their facility. Superintendents have the responsibility to ensure that such dogs are treated as valuable working dogs.

Procedures

A. Written local procedure

1. Requirements

Superintendents who choose to use tracking dogs at their facilities must develop a local procedure that specifies the circumstances under which dogs are to be used.

2. Contents of procedure

Superintendents choosing to house dogs at their facility must include the following, at a minimum, in their written procedures:

- a) Adequate kennel that meets basic health standards
- b) Provisions for assuring dogs receive veterinary care and

maintain immunizations recommended by the American Veterinary association and as required by state law.

- c) Responsibilities of dog handler; including provisions to ensure sufficient exercise to maintain dog's health and well-being.
- d) Training requirements for dog handler(s) and dogs.
- e) Identification of dogs as state property and documentation recording that ownership.
- f) Equipment to be used in conjunction with the canine unit.
- g) Replacement of dogs.
- h) Assistance to be given to other governmental agencies at the request of an authorized representative.

B. Restriction

Staff must not use dogs for the purpose of harassment or intimidation.

Forms

None

Collateral Documents

None

Standards

None